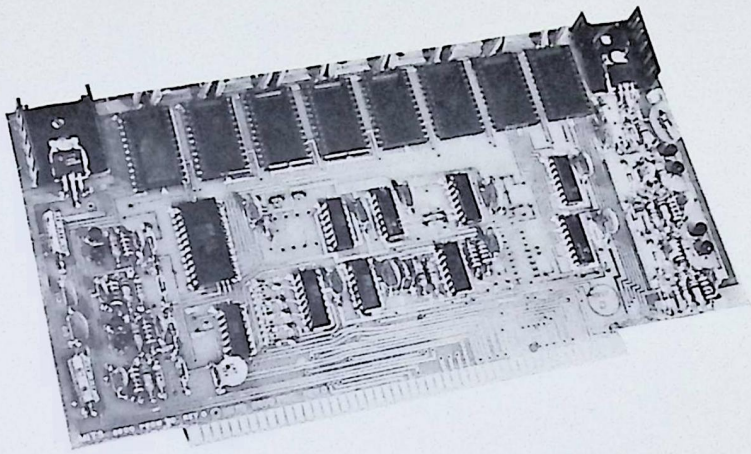
PROM Memory Card (88-PMC)



The 88-PMC is a Programmable Read Only Memory (PROM) card designed for programs that must be retained if power to the computer is interrupted. It is capable of providing up to 2K bytes of PROM memory using either the 1702 or 1702A type PROMs (8 bits by 256 bytes per PROM).

Hardware

Dimensions: 10" x 5"
Altair Slots: One
Power: + 8V at 500 ma − 16V at (*) ma
*30-50 mA/PROM with PROM "on"
5-10 mA/PROM with PROM "off"

Capabilities

PROMs are electrically programmable and erasable (via ultra-violet light) so that they can be reprogrammed if necessary.

The card can be configured with a minimum of 256 bytes and may be expanded in 256 word increments up to 2,048 bytes by adding PROMs.

There are provisions for patching the number of wait states from 0-3, in order to accommodate different speed devices. Generally, PROMs require from 1-3 wait states, depending on the speed of the device used.

Memory Size: 2,048 bytes (max.).

Access Time: .75 microseconds-2 microseconds (depending on device).

Operation

The PROM card is most useful to systems requiring non-volatile read only memory. Such systems occur in dedicated control applications, boot loaders, or other start-up routines.

The PROM card provides the option of power down circuitry, consisting of four drivers that switch the PROMs "on" and "off" in pairs in order to reduce current drain. In the "off" state, the PROMs draw only 15-20% of the current required in the "on" state. Except for overlaps in switching, only two PROMs can be "on" at a time.

The board may be addressed in 2K increments at any starting address between 0 and 63K by patching the starting address via the 5 jumpers included on the board.

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